

Paederia scandens

Maile pilau

Paederia scandens (Lour.) Merr.
Syn. *P. foetida*

Family: Rubiaceae

Description: Malodorous twining vine to 20 ft long, smothers small trees. Leaves opposite, to 5.5 inches long by 2 inches wide, smooth above, tufts of hairs in axils of primary veins on the underside, margins entire. Flowers in clusters, white to pale yellow, purple center. Fruits yellowish brown to red, glossy, 0.2 inches diameter. Genus name from the Greek *paederos* for opal, a reference to the fruit of some other species of this genus; *scandens*, climbing^(5, 70).

Distribution: Native to eastern Asia. A pest in dry to wet forests and perennial crops in moist to wet areas on O‘ahu, Kaua‘i, and Hawai‘i. First recorded on O‘ahu in 1854⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Smothers trees and smaller vegetation.



Management: Difficult where maile pilau climbs over desirable plants. Sensitive to triclopyr and perhaps to other hormone-type herbicides. If non-targets are to be saved, only ground-covering parts can be treated. Large stumps will probably require follow-up treatment, e.g., stump bark applications. May be controlled with directed applications to foliage to avoid supporting vegetation, although some non-target damage is likely. May be controlled with low-volume basal bark applications with 20% triclopyr ester product in oil, taking care to only treat vines and not contact supporting vegetation.